

Activity #9: Practice Teaching Vocabulary

PRTI Session One

On Your Own

Select a classroom book. Follow the directions below to teach four new vocabulary words from the book to a small group of children. Bring this completed handout to the next session.

Vocabulary

Identify four vocabulary words that you plan to teach from the book you selected. List those words here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Think about Child-Friendly Definitions

After you have chosen the words to teach, think about what each word means. The term *child-friendly definition* refers to a sentence that explains what a word means in a more complete and straightforward way than dictionary definitions (Beck, McKeown, & Kucan, 2008). The definition may include information about who or where you might use the word by saying things like: "Someone who is _____ might _____" or "If something is _____, it is _____."

Practice Writing a Child-Friendly Definition

Now, try writing your own child-friendly definitions for the words you selected. Use words that convey basic concepts and that do not contain another sophisticated word that the children will not know. Write your definitions below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Teach!

Select a small group of 3-5 children that need some extra vocabulary support. Read the book to your group and teach the new vocabulary words using your child-friendly definitions. Don't forget to scaffold upward or downward as needed! After you have taught the words, describe on the back of this handout how the activity went.